
Title: The Patronus.

Author: Tenebris de'Winter

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A leatherbound red
book with an inverted
pentagram drawn upon
the front cover.

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Although some Fallen
Ones are intuitive
enough to learn the
Arts on their own,
most require an
instructor of some
kind. If our
Infernalist has joined
a sect, hell receive a
mentor (often in
exchange for some
hefty favors and/or
servitude); even if he
studies alone, chances
are hell attract the
attention of a mentor
before long. Aside
from the details
which vary from
teacher to teacher, but
tend to be fairly
grotesque an Infernal
apprenticeship is
much like any other.
An older Infernalist
takes a
less-experienced one
as a student, the
student performs
some degree of
service, and the elder
passes on her secrets.
Or most of them, at
any rate.... Sooner or
later, the Infernalist
wants more. Perhaps
hes too proud or
impatient to withstand
an apprenticeship; or
maybe his mentor is

too perverse even for a
young warlocks jaded
tastes; mortal teachers
fail, or when there
are none to be found,
the Infernalist calls
upon a demonic tutor
and offers him some
favors in exchange
for knowledge or
power. As risky as it
is, this step usually
comes early in an
Infernalists journey;
the Fallen One meets
his Patronus (patron)
during his
renunciation
ceremony. (The demon
has, more often than
not, been watching
since the beginning,
but only reveals itself
at the initiation.)
At some point, the
aspiring
demon-servant gains a
ritual that allows him
to call upon an agent of
the Pit; if hes wise,
hell use it when he
has the strength and
experience to handle a
demon face-to-face.
Most warlocks are too
proud, desperate or
impatient to wait until
then, however; some
die or go insane the
first time they
summon a demon to
their aid. Admittedly,
the raw fury of a
demonic manifestation
is enough to send even
an experienced
wizard sprawling. To
invoke an evil spirit,
the Infernalist must
perform some
appalling ceremony
and make the
appropriate sacrifices
(usually live, almost
always messy). The
demon makes an
impressive entrance,
throwing minor

tempests in all
directions and often
indulging in some
hideous display for
sheer shock value.
(Considering how
jaded most
Infernalists are by
this point, that kind of
display is best left to
ones imagination.)
Howling threats or
offering sweet
seductions, the evil
spirit assesses the
Infernalists reaction;
if he seems to have
potential, the
bargaining begins....

Most Infernal pacts
are sealed this way:
highly symbolic
offers are exchanged
until both parties get
what they want. The
Infernalist inevitably
has to commit some
sinful, often
hazardous act, and the
demon offers some
minor but enticing
trinket. Most demons
snare their quarry
here; many mortals,
unsure of what they
want or how to ask for
it, give away their
souls for very little
profit. Some
Infernalists sprout
hideous Investments
and become virtual
devils themselves, but
rarely realize how
much they could have
had. A warlock who
masters the steps
before this dance
begins often gains an
impressive
Patronus... even as he
becomes its slave.

Many others,
confronted with a
soul-seller, wonder
how on earth someone

could barter away both
soul and freedom. But
the Infernalist sees
things differently. To
him, the demon is not
his master, but his
advocate; the Patronus
has mastery over
certain things, and the
warlock helps him
keep it, in exchange
for a few choice
favours. This illusion
and it is an illusion!
of partnership keeps
the Infernalist from
seeing the abyss at
his feet. He may feel
its heat, but hes
convinced that he can
either fly over it or
escape it at the last
moment.